













## Extracts.

## KATE.

There's something in the name of Kate  
Which makes me think of you  
And I'm sure, now, while I write,  
That I'm not alone.

There's a little Kate, a modest dame,  
And worthy of your love;  
She's nice and beautiful in frame,  
As gentle as a dove.

Commune-Kate's intelligent,  
As we may well suppose;  
Her fruitful mind is ever bent  
On telling what she knows.

There's a little Kate, she's an obscure,  
The hard to find her out,  
For she is often very sure  
To put your wits to rout.

There's a little Kate, a southern maid,  
She's sure to love her way;  
The cunning, cunning young jade  
Objects to all you say.

There's a little Kate, a perfect pest,  
Much given to dispute;  
Her prattling tongue can never rest,  
You cannot get her off.

There's a little Kate, a quiet one in fact,  
Who likes to gain her point;  
Her face is quite a masterpiece,  
And so very out of joint.

Equivo-Kate no one will woo,  
Who things would be sure;  
She is so faithful and true,  
You cannot take her word.

There's a little Kate, she's good and true,  
And strives with all her might  
Her duty faithfully to do,  
And looks for the right.

There's a little Kate, a country lass,  
Quite fond of rural scenes;  
She likes to ramble through the grass,  
And through the evergreen.

Of all the maidens you can find  
There's a little Kate,  
Because she elevates the mind,  
And aims at something great.

WHAT OUR FOREIGN CRITICS  
THINK OF US.

The men of this country are generally divided by foreign observers into two great types: First, the athletic, muscular, square-shouldered type; a sort of respectable Guy Livingstone, strong, steady, earnest, and ambitious, pushing his way steadily along in the narrow groove, or specially he has selected, striving heroically onward, neither looking to the right nor the left, and crushing his way through the thicket of his heavy boots—good fighter and an honest fellow, but possible a little fat, a tyrannical husband. Second, the phlegmatic type, heavy, dull, overladen with adipose tissue, an accumulator of facts, but utterly devoid of the power of generalisation; hence, a man of great information but few ideas, and those few taken at second-hand; a good man this kind, pleasant, and hospitable in his fat way, a keen man in business, but simply bald and incapable out of it, a believer in all insular articles of faith, a steady churchgoer, a justice of the peace, a mayoral M.P., but a dull dog withal.—*Dickens's All the Year Round.*

## SPLENDID POVERTY.

Poverty, as "splendid" poverty, is by no means exceptional in this highly prosperous country, nor confined to any particular rank in life, and its varieties form a curious and painful study. The variety of its treatment, however, by those most interested—that is, by the poor themselves—is even more instructive. In London alone, a floating mass of over one hundred thousand men, women, and children, of all ages, openly proclaim their impotency, and enjoy the hospitalities, in one form or the other (so dourly prized by our corner), of their respective workhouses. Of course the provincial guests swell this number by many hundreds of thousands. But when we consider the very many obstinate and incorrigible poor, who, like our needlewoman, steel their hearts against the guardians' steel-picks, the early grows into a countless host of living skeletons, thin, bony, and decently covered with the skin of society. For dourer than bread or meat (and God knows they are dear enough) are the "sticks of furniture," the cup of non-clementary tea, the father's Bible, and the mother's china, the social pie not necessarily confined to Sunday or Christmas-day, and the converse ranging over a wider field than fat of benevolent intentions of men, and yet they are thin enough as they sit there, watching their tea-leaves or their beer, and "making believe" at eating-butcher's meat out of the doubtful scraps they have collected; but they cling to the fact that they are still members of the outer world, and to the hope that any one day take a better place in it. Poor things! they do not often read the papers, and so are not troubled in their minds by crowd-quest law, and their wills will never still less when "Death, knocking at the door," shall find them "at home," and seated in splendour to receive his morning call. Who shall presume to lift the veil from this or that skeleton, and at once measure the height from which it has fallen, and count the places in which it is broken? This one was rickety from its birth, and owed nothing to its parents but imperfect formation and evil example. It was physically impossible for it to earn money and make time; mind and body alike refused to share any responsibility of its future existence with the soul, which had to fight the battle of life alone. And this has been wasted by an accident, or stripped by disease. And this other has had its dainty flesh picked off by misfortune, or it is called, by the fangs of the law, or "starvation" than a serpent's tooth, by those of some relative or friend. There they all hang swinging on society's gibbet, their spare clothing flapping in the windy wind, offenders against the evel of Mammon, which counts poverty among her least favourite sins. And who can tell, as the air stirs the rags which serve them for clothing, and shows here and there a gaunt bone instead of a well-turned limb, what shame they feel, and how they shrink, more and more into themselves to avoid further detection and exposure? If the "pride of life" be a sin, it is, alas, an indispensable condition of humanity, and we should like, in a certain sense, to see the man, above the condition of a street beggar, who would be willing to stand either at the Albert Memorial or at Aldgate pump, and make public confession that his purse, or his stomach, is but differently filled. It would, to be sure, infallibly be given into custody for begging in a royal park or in a City thoroughfare, as the case might be; but neither this, nor the consciousness that his indirect appeal would be abortive, detains him from taking a course which he avoids because simply it would make him either an object of public sympathy or ridicule. And such a man disdains to be pitied, he shuns ridicule even more, which makes us feel that, after all, there is a ridiculous side to poverty, on which the damning and the patching show more than unassuming holes. Mr. Scott, cheapening a herring in Clare-market before he was called to the bar, and Lord Eldon buying a salmon at Grove's, after he was made Lord Chancellor, are two very different people, although in both cases the immediate object—that of reaching hunger by a fish diet—was the same; for a man does not dine upon a salmon, whatever he may be suspected of doing on a herring. And the inevitable inference in the former case would be fatal to the customer in the eyes of his tradesman, unless he could produce a patent of nobility wherein to wrap up the bloater, and convey it home.—*Times Magazine.*

## GETTING BELIGION.

The Methodists, both white and black, have a peculiar intonation when they hold forth, which is enhanced by the singular addition of the syllable "or" to the end of almost every word. A story is told of one of these ministers, who, in expounding the horrors of the "doom," contending that those who do not believe in their terrestrial journey must expect, pointed to his own aged father, exclaiming: "Look at that old man, or with one foot in the grave, and the other all but!" But the chief feature of this sect, in their form of worship, is the singing of hymns; their voices are very melodious, and religious music (as they understand it) has a peculiarly fascinating and lulling effect on them. They have on these occasions no books or instruments. One of the ministers, attired in a very long frock coat, with velvet collar, sang out in a clear voice four short lines of an extempore hymn, with the refrain, "Oh! don't you believe in the word of God?" This was taken up at once by the congregation, and repeated a great many times; occasionally a line of the hymn would be changed, but the refrain remained the same. I could not take in the extraordinary antics of all the community at once, I fixed my attention upon a young negro woman near me, dressed in a black silk skirt, white muslin body, and ornamented with a huge chignon; overtopped by a little straw hat, with gaudy ribbons. When the singing began she followed her leader, at first quietly enough, gently, bending the time of the refrain, with one foot, but as the same verses were being repeated she gradually became excited, her hands and elbows keeping time with her feet; then on and on, slapping her hands on her knees and hips, then proceeding to sway from side to side, then to jump up from the ground, her hands and elbows and head still keeping time to the refrain. "Oh (which is a yell) 'don't you believe in the word of God?' (the time of the hymn) I remember that of the Camp-town Races." Glancing round the enclosed square, I saw that most of her co-religionists indulged in the same expressions of piety, their dark skins and white eye-balls and teeth prominently displayed by their delirious excitement, making them appear like howling demons; but the ever increasing frenzy of the object of my special attention assured me, that I felt I must watch the crisis of this extraordinary fanaticism; by this time the strings of her hat had become loose, and that firmly covering was hanging limp over her back; the chignon, following the motion of the head it was fastened to, bounded up and down like a self-acting intoxicated clock-moover; but the wearer was completely oblivious of personal appearance, and an older party, standing by, calmly placed her hand over the top of the young negro's head, and watching her opportunity, when the luckless rose with a jerk, dexterously unhooked it, and placing it on the bench behind her, continued her singular devotions, while the young fanatic's contortions at last became convulsive paroxysms. I have been told that white Methodists get just as excited by their religious rites, but I doubt that, but a coloured woman could go through such contortions except, perhaps, in the convulsions of "tetanus," without breaking her spine. It was almost exhausting to watch the progress of this singular performance, the device bounding up some four feet from the ground, with a wild shriek, her heels almost touching the back of her head, and falling heavily to the ground with a thud. At first I had been inclined to think the girl was "insane," but when three women laid hold of the prostrate body as they would a corpse, and carried it out of the enclosure to a neighbouring tent, I learnt over the girl, and followed a little way; her eyes and teeth were quite shut, white foam escaping from her lips, and her nails almost dug into her clenched hands. There was no inarticulate cry, she would be laid out on a blanket, her head and lips bathed, and left to recover from her swoon, rising from her prostration brained and weak, but revived by her kind, because "she had got religion."—*From "Our American Cousins at Home."*

## MILTON'S POETRY.

Yes, Milton was a Puritan; one who instead of trusting himself, and his hopes of the universe, to second-hand hearsay, systems, and traditions, had looked God's Word and his own soul in the face, and determined to act on that which he had found. And therefore it is that to open his works at any stray page, after these effeminate Catholics, is like falling asleep in a stifling city drawing-room, amid Rococo French furniture, but without unduly traces of last night's ball, and awaking in an Alpine valley, amid the scent of sweet cyclamens and pine boughs, the huts, beneath the dark cathedral aisles of mighty trees, and here and there, above them and beyond, the spireless peaks of everlasting snow; while far beneath your feet—

"The hemisphere of earth in clearest ken,  
Stretched to the amplest reach of prospect."  
Take any—the most hackneyed passage of "Comus," the "Allegro," the "Penseroso," the "Paradise Lost," and see the freshness, the sweetness, the simplicity, which is strangely combined with the pomp, the self-restraint, the earnestness of every word; take him even as an experimental crucible, when he trenches upon court leet and questionable, and tries the Court poets at their own weapons:—  
"Or whether (as some ageing sing),  
The frolic wind that breathes the spring,  
Zephyr, with Aurora playing,  
As he met her once a Maying,  
There on beds of violet blue,  
And frost-blown roses washed in dew—"

But why quote what all the world knows?—where shall we find such real music, such sweetness, such a song of words in any thing written for five-and-twenty years before him? True, he was no great dramatist. He never tried to be one; but that was no one in his generation who could have written either "Comus" or "Samson Agonistes." And if, as is commonly believed, and as his countenance seems to indicate, he was deficient in humour, so were his contemporaries, with the sole exception of Cartwright. Witly he could be, and his bitter, but he did not live in a really humorous age; and if he had none of the rollicking fun of the fox-hound puppy, at least he has none of the obscene gibber of the ape.—*From "Plays and Parables," by Charles Kingsley.*

It is understood that the French Government will not do much to support the approaching London International Exhibition, but will devote its energies to the Vienna Exhibition. THE SAN JUAN BOUNDARY.—A message has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington reporting that the charts, defining the San Juan water boundary were signed on the 16th March.

## THE EARTH'S CHANGES.

The term in which the final destruction of our earth is spoken of in Scripture, and the comparatively short existence which seems to be in Providence destined for it, render it pretty certain that this globe of least will last with its doom in the above-mentioned manner (Laplace's hypothesis). But as such an event is not only a perfectly possible one in the economy of nature, but an absolute certainty supposing that the resisting medium were allowed time enough to do its work, it may not be out of place to pause for a moment and consider what is involved in such a catastrophe. Let us think, for example, what the case would be with our own earth, if no special destruction were to come upon it from some yet unanticipated and possibly miraculous cause. Many centuries no doubt—it may be many millions—would elapse before the most delicate observations could reveal the working of the mysterious agent. But at length some astronomer detects a minute change in the elements of the earth's orbit which cannot be accounted for by any of the ordinary perturbations, and he is compelled to the belief that the resisting medium is beginning perceptibly to influence the planet. This discovery, when publicly announced, could not fail seriously to impress the most thoughtless of hearers. The first step has been taken by the earth on its way to a doom as fearful as the imagination can paint, and as inevitable as the unrelenting laws of nature pass away; the end is—richly no nearer, and but for the figures of the astronomers the whole thing might be denominated as an idle fable. But not the less surely does the unseen destroyer fulfil his mission; and in time the effects of his work become palpable to every eye. The sun's disc is perceptibly enlarged, the intensity of his light and heat are increased, the length of the year is diminished. At first the change of climate is a pleasant and grateful one, except between the tropics, and even there it is not so marked as to be very severely felt. But slowly and surely the influence becomes more potent, and when we look again some ages later, the faces of the intertropical regions are scarcely recognisable. The rich vale of the Nile, the fertile plains of the Ganges, the verdant plantations of Africa and Asia have extended their bounds and stretch without an oasis far on either side of the equator. The inhabitants retreat, some to the north and some to the south, but the fiery belt between steadily pursues them, and mile after mile, league after league, falls under its devastating sway. Some ages more pass away, and when we look again the vineyards of Spain, the olive groves of Italy, the fig-gardens of Turkey, their cities yet stand with all their splendid palaces, their gorgeous temples, but they are like Tadmor in the wilderness—cities without inhabitants. Look again, and Mont Blanc has lost his diadem of snow and rears his head, a bare cone of granite, above the dry and rocky table-land which was once the Marche d'Alpin. Look again, and our own land has, in its desolation, a burning desert. And now the whole inhabitants of the globe are collected in two narrow circles around either pole. The ice and the snow have disappeared, and the frozen plains of Greenland and Labrador team with tropical vegetation. But the narrow limits of the habitable earth can no longer support this vast increase of population, and famine begins to mow down

its victims by millions. Now, indeed, the end of all life on the earth draws on apace. The resisting medium, from the increased proximity to the sun, grows rapidly much denser, and its effect is proportionately increased. The heat is almost insupportable. Rain and dew fall no longer. All springs of water fail, and the rivers dwindle down to streams, and trickle slowly over their story beds. And now scarcity of water is added to scarcity of food. Those who escape from the famine perish by the drought, and those who escape from the drought are reserved for a fate more awful yet.—For time, indeed, the few remaining inhabitants of the earth are partially screened from the overwhelming power of the sun by a dense canopy of clouds. From the excessive evaporation, thick columns of mist are constantly rising from the surface of every lake and every sea, and forming into dense banks of clouds, which hang like a funeral pall over the dying earth. But such partial scorching as these vapours afford can be formed by evaporation. Thus the fiery orb shines out in unmitigated splendour without the slightest cloud-wreath to interpose between him and his victims. Then, truly, the heavens become as iron and the earth as brass. Then the last denizens of the world are stricken down and consumed, the last traces of organic life are blotted from its surface.—*From "The Romance of Astronomy," by R. Kellie Miller.*

THE OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.  
Incorporated in 1859.  
CAPITAL, £1,000,000.  
The Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to accept Marine Risks and issue Policies at current rates.  
JAS. B. COUGHTREY,  
1781 Hongkong 7th June, 1867.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.  
HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.  
AGENTS at all the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Saigon and Penang.  
Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rates of Premium current at the above-mentioned Ports.  
No charge for Policy fees.  
JAS. B. COUGHTREY,  
Hongkong, 1st November, 1871.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.  
Reduction in the Rates of Premium.  
Detached and semi-detached Dwelling Houses, removed from town, 1 per cent. on their contents.  
Other dwelling Houses, removed from town, 1 per cent. on their contents.  
On and after this date, a discount of 20 per cent. of the above rates will be allowed to Insurers.  
GILMAN & Co.,  
Agents, North British and Mercantile Insurance Company,  
1168 Hongkong, 24th June, 1872.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.  
THE following rates will be charged in future for SHORT PERIOD Insurance, viz:—  
Not exceeding 10 days, 1/2 of the annual rate.  
Not exceeding 1 month, 1/3 do. do.  
Not exceeding 3 months, 1/4 do. do.  
Not exceeding 6 months, 1/5 do. do.  
Above six months the full annual rate.  
J. A. JORDAN, MATHESON & Co.,  
Agents, Alliance Fire Insurance Company,  
1781 Hongkong, 26th August, 1869.

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## HONGKONG MARKETS.

As Reported by Chinese on the 29th April, 1873.

OCTOON GOODS.  
COTTON YARN, No. 16 & 24, per picul \$11.50 & \$12.00  
" 32 & 40, " " 12.00 & 12.50  
" 48 & 60, " " 12.50 & 13.00  
" 72 & 84, " " 13.00 & 13.50  
" 96 & 108, " " 13.50 & 14.00  
" 120 & 144, " " 14.00 & 14.50  
" 168 & 216, " " 14.50 & 15.00  
" 288 & 360, " " 15.00 & 15.50  
" 432 & 576, " " 15.50 & 16.00  
" 648 & 864, " " 16.00 & 16.50  
" 972 & 1296, " " 16.50 & 17.00  
" 1458 & 1944, " " 17.00 & 17.50  
" 2187 & 2916, " " 17.50 & 18.00  
" 3270 & 4356, " " 18.00 & 18.50  
" 4905 & 6472, " " 18.50 & 19.00  
" 7358 & 9786, " " 19.00 & 19.50  
" 11037 & 14712, " " 19.50 & 20.00  
" 16556 & 21944, " " 20.00 & 20.50  
" 24834 & 33112, " " 20.50 & 21.00  
" 37251 & 49664, " " 21.00 & 21.50  
" 55877 & 74496, " " 21.50 & 22.00  
" 83816 & 111744, " " 22.00 & 22.50  
" 125724 & 167616, " " 22.50 & 23.00  
" 188586 & 251136, " " 23.00 & 23.50  
" 282879 & 377208, " " 23.50 & 24.00  
" 424318 & 565728, " " 24.00 & 24.50  
" 636477 & 848592, " " 24.50 & 25.00  
" 954716 & 1272864, " " 25.00 & 25.50  
" 1432074 & 1909296, " " 25.50 & 26.00  
" 2148111 & 2863936, " " 26.00 & 26.50  
" 3222167 & 4295904, " " 26.50 & 27.00  
" 4833250 & 6443808, " " 27.00 & 27.50  
" 7249875 & 9665712, " " 27.50 & 28.00  
" 10874813 & 14498568, " " 28.00 & 28.50  
" 16312219 & 21747840, " " 28.50 & 29.00  
" 24468328 & 32621760, " " 29.00 & 29.50  
" 36702492 & 48932640, " " 29.50 & 30.00  
" 55053738 & 72898880, " " 30.00 & 30.50  
" 82580607 & 109348160, " " 30.50 & 31.00  
" 123870910 & 165022272, " " 31.00 & 31.50  
" 185806365 & 247533408, " " 31.50 & 32.00  
" 278709547 & 371300160, " " 32.00 & 32.50  
" 418064320 & 556950272, " " 32.50 & 33.00  
" 627096480 & 835425408, " " 33.00 & 33.50  
" 935806080 & 1253138560, " " 33.50 & 34.00  
" 1403709120 & 1879706880, " " 34.00 & 34.50  
" 2105563680 & 2819560320, " " 34.50 & 35.00  
" 3158345600 & 4229340160, " " 35.00 & 35.50  
" 4737518400 & 6344010240, " " 35.50 & 36.00  
" 7106277760 & 9516015360, " " 36.00 & 36.50  
" 10659417600 & 14274022400, " " 36.50 & 37.00  
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" 23983689600 & 32116550400, " " 37.50 & 38.00  
" 35978252800 & 48174822400, " " 38.00 & 38.50  
" 53972816000 & 72262233600, " " 38.50 & 39.00  
" 80967379200 & 108393664000, " " 39.00 & 39.50  
" 121451008000 & 162589440000, " " 39.50 & 40.00  
" 182176512000 & 243884160000, " " 40.00 & 40.50  
" 273264768000 & 365826240000, " " 40.50 & 41.00  
" 409897280000 & 548739360000, " " 41.00 & 41.50  
" 614845440000 & 823109024000, " " 41.50 & 42.00  
" 922232320000 & 1234663680000, " " 42.00 & 42.50  
" 1383348480000 & 1851995520000, " " 42.50 & 43.00  
" 2075022720000 & 2777993280000, " " 43.00 & 43.50  
" 3112534080000 & 4166989440000, " " 43.50 & 44.00  
" 4668801280000 & 6250483200000, " " 44.00 & 44.50  
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